

**Request for Initialed PTO-1449 Forms**

It is requested that the Patent Examiner issue an appropriate initialed PTO-1449 forms in response to the Information Disclosure Statements filed on January 14, February 22 and August 9, 2002, pursuant to MPEP § 609.

**Election and Traversal**

In response to the Election Requirement, Applicants elect the polymer of Example 1 at page 7, line 21 of the specification as the fluorine-containing polymer (a); and ammonia as they "chemical treating agent" (b). This election is made with traverse.

The Election Requirement is respectfully traversed, since all of the claims of the present application relate to a method for curing a fluorine-containing polymer having a certain structure, wherein the polymer is treated with a base, such as ammonia, and the polymer structure recited in the claims is significantly related such that the search and examination issues significantly overlap among the claims. Consequently, it is submitted that all of the present claims should be examined in the present application and it is requested that the Election Requirement be withdrawn.

It is submitted that the above-elected species having features (a) and (b) is within the scope of all of pending claims 1-7.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) respectfully petition(s) for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$110.00 is attached hereto.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 

Andrew D. Meikle, #32,868

ADM/csm  
0020-4948P

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000